

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rain sensor for a motor vehicle including a wiper device, the rain sensor comprising:

5 a control device; and  
a measuring element having a sensitivity that is predefinable by the control device;

10 wherein a signal characterizing a speed of the motor vehicle is transmittable to the control device, and wherein the control device increases the sensitivity of the measuring element at a lower speed.

2. The rain sensor of claim 1, wherein the control device increases the sensitivity when the speed is low.

15 3. The rain sensor of claim 1, wherein the control device increases the sensitivity when the speed is less than 5 km/h.

20 4. The rain sensor of claim 2, wherein the control device increases the sensitivity when the speed is less than 3 km/h.

25 5. The rain sensor of claim 1, wherein the control device has a single wiping stage in which a single wiping cycle is activatable in each case, and the sensitivity of the measuring element is increased in the single wiping cycle.

30 6. The rain sensor of claim 5, wherein the control device increases the sensitivity of the measuring element when a longer time interval has elapsed since a last wiping cycle.

7. The rain sensor of claim 6, wherein the longer time interval is at least 5 seconds.

35 8. A method for controlling a window-wiper device for a motor vehicle including a measuring element that has a sensitivity predefined by a control device, the method comprising:

transmitting a signal characterizing a speed of the motor vehicle to the control device; and

increasing the sensitivity of the measuring element at lower speed.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein the sensitivity of the measuring element is increased when the speed is low.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the sensitivity of the measuring element is increased when the speed is less than 5 km/h.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the sensitivity of the measuring element is increased when the speed is less than 3 km/h.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the windshield-wiper device implements single wiping cycles and the sensitivity of the measuring element is increased between the single wiping cycles.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the sensitivity of the measuring element is increased when a longer time interval has elapsed since the last wiping cycle.

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14. The method of claim 13, wherein the longer time interval is at least 5 seconds.